

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 08443 190925Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 059709

R 190742Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1275

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 8443

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PROP CH

SUBJECT: RUMORS SURROUNDING MR COMMANDER'S DEATH

REF: HK 8292

1. HONG KONG CHINESE-LANGUAGE DAILY MING PAO TODAY CARRIES AN ACCOUNT OF FOOCHOW MR COMMANDER PI TING-CHUN'S DEATH WHICH IT SAYS COMES FROM A RECENT TRAVELER TO FUKIEN. APPARENTLY BASED ON RUMORS CIRCULATING IN FUKIEN, THE MING PAO STORY CLAIMS THAT ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES IN AMOY SHOT DOWN WHAT THEY THOUGH WAS AN ROC SPY PLANE, BUT WHICH PROVED ON INVESTIGATION TO BE A CONVERTED MIG 21 CARRYING COMMANDER PI.

2. THE REPORT GOES ON TO STATE THAT CENTRAL AUTHORITIES IN PEKING WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THIS ACCOUNT OF PI'S DEATH, SINCE AMOY UNITS SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF PI'S PRESENCE IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 08443 190925Z

AIRCRAFT. INSTEAD, RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING IN FUKIEN THAT

THE CRASH THAT KILLED PI WAS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY ON THE PART OF SUPPORTERS OF FORMER MR COMMANDER (AND CURRENT LANCHOW MR COMMANDER) HAN HSIEN-CHU, A BITTER FACTIONAL OPPONENT OF PI FROM THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION DAYS WHEN PI WAS DEPUTY TO HAN.

3. COMMENT: BOTH THE CONSPIRACY AND THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE STORIES SOUND FAR-FETCHED, AND SHOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN WITH MORE THAN A GRAIN OF SALT. THE FACT THAT SUCH STORIES ARE CURRENT IN FUKIEN, HOWEVER, IS A MEASURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN TRYING TO OVERCOME THE HEAVY LEGACY OF FACTIONALISM AND SUSPICION ON THE PROVINCE.
CROSS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK08443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0003
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760745/aaaabnkf.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS SURROUNDING MR COMMANDER'S DEATH
TAGS: PINT, PROP, MILI, CH, (PI TING-CHUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006